We are led to these remarks by the following extract from a letter by F. W. Corliss dated St. Brides, Norfolk County, Va., February 14.

To-day closes the most stormy period I have yet seen in the south. But few hours of sunshine for two weeks, rain and cloudy weather with cold winds.

No matter what the weather was, rainy, sunshine or cloudy, great flocks of robins, meadow larks, and other birds were flitting across the pasture and lawn.

* * * * * * *

Snow commenced falling about 4 o'clock p. m. on Saturday and continued almost incessantly for fifty hours, wind north to northeast, northwest and nearly due west, with thermometer registering 20° above zero on an average, sometimes dropping to 14°, then rising to 24°. But when the snow ceased falling the thermometer dropped to 4° above zero this morning at 6:30 o'clock; 10° colder than I have seen yet in this part of the State. I think the depth of the snow was at least 8 inches; it lies in drifts 2 and 3 feet deep.

ICE JAM IN THE NIAGARA RIVER.

The ice jam in the northern or lower portion of the Niagara River is worth putting on record. According to the Post-Standard of Syracuse the Niagara River is frozen over from Lewiston down to Youngstown for the first time in twenty-two years. An ice jam formed along the river on February 13 and the river was frozen solid on the 14th from the base of the Falls to Lake Ontario, except at the Rapids. Above the Falls the ice is packed in high piles in the river. Much dynamite has been exploded to drive the ice from the inlets leading to the different power plants. In the gorge at the foot of the Falls some of the ice hills are nearly fifty feet high and one is said to be over a hundred feet high. Such a large quantity of ice has not been seen in the Niagara River for many years.

INTERNATIONAL CLOUD NAMES.

In the MONTHLY WEATHER REVIEW for July, 1898, p. 312, we have reprinted the description of the international symbols, as published in a circular of January 1, 1894, by the Weather Bureau. This was done in response to several requests for more information on this subject. At a subsequent meeting of the International Meteorological Committee, August, 1894, a system of abbreviations for the names of clouds was adopted, which is published on pages 18–19 of the Instructions for Weather Bureau Observers, dated October 1, 1895. So far as concerns the use of these abbreviations for clouds these pages of the instructions first went into effect at Weather Bureau stations in 1896, according to Instructions No. 56, dated June 19, when the modified code for telegraphing clouds was also authorized. In order that there may be no doubt that the last paragraph in column 2 of page 312 of the MONTHLY WEATHER REVIEW for July, 1898, is replaced by current instructions, the abbreviations now in use are reprinted as follows from pages 18–19 of the Instructions of October 1, 1895, to Weather Bureau Observers:

1. Ci.	Cirrus.	8. Cu.	Cumulus.
2. Ci. S.	Cirro-stratus.	9. Cu. N.	Cumulo-nimbus.
3. Ci. Cu.	Cirro-cumulus.	10. S.	Stratus.
4. A. Cu.	Alto-cumulus.	11. F. N.	Fracto-nimbus or scud.
5. A. S.	Alto-stratus.	12. F. Cu.	Fracto-cumulus.
6. S. Cu.	Strato-cumulus.	13. F. S.	Fracto-stratus.
7. N.	Nimbus.		

INCREASE OF SNOW WITH ALTITUDE.

In connection with reports from Colorado, alluded to on page 62, we take the following from the February report of Mr. W. S. Palmer, section director for Wyoming. The snow on the ground at the end of the month is reported as follows:

Station.	Altitude.	Snow on ground.
	Feet.	*Inches.*
Dome Lake	8,821	48
Laramie Peak		25
Snowy Range	8,700	55
Do	9,000	81
Do	10,000	98
Do	11,000	136

THE DATE OF THE MONTHLY WEATHER REVIEW.

The Editor occasionally receives a complaint to the effect that the MONTHLY WEATHER REVIEW for any given month is published too late or contains ancient data, or is in some other respects not quite up to the standard of the critic.

Perhaps it is as well to say that the MONTHLY WEATHER REVIEW carries the number and date of the month to which the greater part of the climatological statistics refer. In order to gather together this data as promptly as possible all the forms for a given month, both for regular and voluntary stations, are expected to be filled out, summarized, checked, and received at the Central Office in Washington by the 25th of the following month; of the more distant stations, only those in Alaska are excepted. As soon as received at Washington the data is entered upon the forms corresponding to the climatological tables and charts that appear in the MONTHLY WEATHER REVIEW. The work of the draughtsman, the compositor, and the proofreader begins at once and occupies at least two weeks, from the 25th until the 10th of the following month. The first copies of the complete MONTHLY WEATHER REVIEW are due on the 15th, or six weeks after the close of the month. The other portions of the REVIEW relative to forecasts, rivers, crops, and the short articles contributed to the text are usually prepared before the work on the climatological tables begins.

The Weather Bureau is allowed to maintain a very small printing office, and the publication of the REVIEW is accomplished wholly at this office. Delays must sometimes occur, owing to sickness, or the press of other work, or to the addition of a few extra pages and charts. It, therefore, frequently happens that instead of receiving the MONTHLY WEATHER REVIEW within seven weeks after the close of any month, our correspondents will find it delayed a week or two longer. Thus, the REVIEW for December, 1898, did not appear until March 17, an arrearage of four weeks, due largely to orders for special work, which latter always takes precedence over the REVIEW.

Although the REVIEW relates principally to the meteorology of the month whose name it bears, yet it is not absolutely restricted thereto, but also includes belated data from distant stations, and even interesting items or special contributions received after the close of the month.

FORECASTS ON LETTER BOXES.

Mr. F. P. Chaffee announces in the February report of the Alabama section that—

Through the courtesy of the postmaster at Montgomery, Ala., the daily forecasts of the Weather Bureau will be posted on all street letter boxes in that city. The carriers who collect the mail will post the forecast cards, which will thus be widely distributed locally by about 1 p. m. of the date of issue.

It would now seem as though the daily distribution of the forecast cards is in a fair way to become the most popular and efficient method of distributing the regular morning pre-